

CLAIMS

1. An industrial process for obtaining tomato pulp and tomato concentrate from tomato juice, said process comprising of the following steps:
 - a) separating the tomato juice to two parts,
 - 5 b) one part containing up to 20% of the total tomato juice is separated to pulp and serum,
 - c) the serum obtained from step b) is added to the second part of the juice which is further concentrated to obtain tomato concentrate.
- 10 2. A process according to claim 1 further comprising a step of drying the pulp obtained from step b).
3. A process according to claim 1 wherein up to 15% of the tomato pulp in the is separated.
- 15 4. A process according to claim 1 wherein the separation of the pulp from the tomato juice is conducted by centrifugation.
5. A method for controlling the viscosity and lycopene concentration of tomato products, tomato concentrate or modified tomato juice, by separating a part of the pulp from the tomato juice from which said tomato products are obtained.
- 20 6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the viscosity and lycopene concentrate of tomato concentrate is controlled
- 25 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the part of the pulp which is separated is separated before concentrating the tomato juice to tomato concentrate.
8. A method according to claim 5 wherein up to 15% of the total tomato pulp is separated.
- 30

9. A method according to claim 5 wherein the viscosity and lycopene concentrate of modified tomato juice is controlled.

10. A pulp composition comprising of tomato pulp wherein the particle size is not greater than 2.5mm which does not contain seeds or peels from the tomato and has a lycopene concentration which is 5 to 15 folds higher than the lycopene concentration in the tomatoes from which said pulp is obtained.

11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein said pulp is dried.

12. A composition according to claim 11 wherein said composition has a water absorbency capacity ratio of dried pulp:water of 1:13 to 1:25.

13. A composition according to claim 10 wherein the particle size is not greater than 1.5 mm.

14. Use of the composition of claim 10 as a colorant.

15. Use of the composition of claim 11 as a colorant.

16. Use of a composition of claims 10 or 11 as starting material for obtaining tomato oleoresin and lycopene.